

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SCCT-01

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FM AMCONSUL MILAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4561

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L MILAN 0350

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: MILAN SECURITY IMPROVEMENT AND THE LOCKED BARN DOOR

REF A. STATE 271528, B. MILAN 2177, C. MILAN 2333

1. WE SUBMITTED IN NOVEMBER, VIA REFS B AND C, REQUESTS FOR AUTHORIZATION TO MAKE NEEDED SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS AT CONGEN MILAN. OUR CONCLUSION THAT ADDED SECURITY MEASURES WERE NECESSARY HERE COINCIDED WITH DEPT'S OWN REQUEST FOR A REVIEW OF PHYSICAL SECURITY PROGRAMS AT OVERSEAS POSTS (REF A), THE LATTER HAVING BEEN A WELCOME ASSURANCE THAT DEPARTMENT WAS ALIVE TO URGENT NEED FOR MORE COMPLETE PROTECTION FOR AMERICAN PERSONNEL. OUR RECOMMENDATIONS WERE PUT FORWARD BY OUR OWN SECURITY COMMITTEE, ENDORSED BY ROME, AND FULLY ACCEPTED BY VISITING SECURITY EXPERTS. YET ALMOST THREE MONTHS HAVE PASSED WITHOUT A REPLY FROM WASHINGTON.

2. PRESENT ATMOSPHERE OF LOCKHEED REVELATIONS, CIA EXPOSES,

PUBLICATION OF NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL, AND GENERALLY INCREASED AMERICAN AND FOREIGN PRESS ATTENTION TO U.S. DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS ABROAD MAKES NEED FOR TIGHTER PHYSICAL SECURITY MORE URGENT THAN EVER BEFORE. HERE IN MILAN, LOCAL PRESS HAS ALREADY SPOTLIGHTED ONE AMERICAN OFFICER, SHOWING FRONT PAGE PHOTO OF HIS APARTMENT HOUSE AND DRAWING ATTENTION TO FACT THAT

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HIS NAME APPEARED ON LIST OF ALLEGED CIA AGENTS THAT APPEARED IN

AN ITALIAN MAGAZINE.

3. IMMEDIACY OF NEED ARISES NOT ONLY FROM INCREASINGLY TENSE SECURITY ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH SENSATIONAL PRESS IS WHIPPING UP PASSIONS AND FROM CLIMATE IN WHICH KIDNAPPINGS ARE ALMOST A DAILY HAPPENING. PROBLEM IS AGGRAVATED BY EFFECT OF GREATLY INCREASED SECURITY MEASURES TAKEN BY EMBASSY ROME AND OTHER FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS THERE. RESULT IS THAT TERRORISTS LOOKING TO ATTACK US ARE LESS AND LESS LIKELY TO RISK ASSAULT THERE AND MORE DRIVEN TO SOFT TARGETS LIKE MILAN.

4. WE DO NOT WANT TO BE IN POSITION OF HAVING FAILED TO ANTICIPATE A TRAGEDY THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN AVERTED. WE ATTACH SPECIAL URGENCY TO APPROVAL FOR CURTAIN WALL AND BULLET-PROOF GLASS BARRIER FOR ENTRANCE WAY TO CONGEN OFFICES (REFS B AND C), THOUGH OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS (REF C) SHOULD ALSO BE FUNDED PROMPTLY IF WE ARE NOT TO RISK LOCKING THE STABLE AFTER THE HORSE HAS BEEN STOLEN.FINA

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